

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of October 21, 2010**

The October meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at Maury Commons, Suite 111. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Tim Duffy, Ken Kroko, Beatrice Paolucci (arrived late) Barbara Miller-Richards (arrived late), and Susan Tyler.
Absent: Commissioners Brian Baker, George Foster and Charles McDaniel. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi, Megan Dougherty and Patricia Sparks.

- I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of September 16, 2010 were unanimously approved with one correction.

Sports Policy Exemption to read: *The Commissioners received a request for an exemption to the Sports Policy in regards to a Coach's son being placed from the wait list to a team, which had an opening due to a withdrawal. Policy states that once a team has an opening, staff will then call the first child on the waiting list. The coach's son was fifth on the waiting list. By the time the first player on the waiting list made his decision not to play, the team in question had played its first game. The Sports Policy states that once the first game is played, new players cannot be added to the roster. Hence, it was too late for the coach's son to be added to the roster from the wait list, and there were still three other players who needed to be checked for availability prior to the coach's son.*

II. Public Comment:

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, thanked the Commission for letting him speak. James wanted to clarify his statement from the last Commission meeting. The R Board will start charging the City Government for their trash. He encouraged the City to work harder on recycling. James also suggested that the City have more benches.

- III. Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

Financial Report – September 2010
Sports Report – September/October 2010
Leisure Report – October/November 2010- Commissioner Kroko commented that Linda Bailey's programs always look great.

The Follow-up Report-September 2010 – Dr. Antozzi distributed an outline dated 2/18/10 from Commissioner Baker in reference to obtaining private or public funding to support free city resident usage of the Dixon Pool. The outline briefly reviewed objectives in obtaining capital improvement funding and funding for programs such as swim lessons and supporting a swim team.

IV. Noteworthy Dates: The Commissioners reviewed upcoming programs and trips.

V. Old Business:

A. Pathways – Dr. Antozzi reported the City Attorney received a phone call from Mrs. Wheeler in reference to her property on Riverside Drive (on the river side) at the end of Charles Street. The pathway will be going directly across her property. Dr. Antozzi contacted Erik Nelson to research the accuracy of the information given by Mrs. Wheeler. In the meantime, the City Attorney is also researching the information. Mrs. Wheeler appears to be correct that the pathway is going across her property. The engineering firm was contacted to begin preparing an easement plan drawing for the Wheeler property. Dr. Antozzi will be meeting with Ms. Wheeler to discuss the pathway. The pathway also crosses property owned by Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR), which is currently in preservation easement. The City is scheduled to go to court to determine the just compensation for the proposed pathway across the Geslois property.

B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership – Dr. Antozzi reported that City staff is working toward approval of the Foundation's construction contract and approval of the fiduciary arrangement for the project.

C. Riverfront Park – Dr. Antozzi reported that the City is looking at some amenities for the park, such as benches and trash cans. Dr. Antozzi stated that he is waiting on approval from the Riverfront Task Force.

D. Dog Festival – The Dog Festival was not well attended. The turf person will be returning next week to do the final seeding.

VI. New Business:

A. Park Entrances – Dr. Antozzi discussed the current status of the cities park signs. The Dixon Park Sign has deteriorated and needs to be replaced. The Old Mill Park sign reads: Fredericksburg/Stafford Park Authority. Years ago, there was an entrance to Hurkamp Park that was an archway. We are now in need of a sign for Riverfront Park. Currently, the City does not have any significant sign that specifies or identifies that it is a Fredericksburg City park. Dr. Antozzi stated that he would like to develop a theme for signs for all city parks. He presented pictures of an arch design. The Commissioners agreed that there should be some continuity in the signs for the City parks. Dr. Antozzi reported that he would request in the upcoming budget funds to hire a design team to develop a theme for signs for the City parks. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of opening it up to the public to get ideas for signs. Dr. Antozzi stated that we can always open it up to the public to vote on several design options.

B. Powhatan Park - Dr. Antozzi reported that we are converting the staging area of the Powhatan Park water tank area into a park. The area is now graded and W. C. Spratt has bought two benches. The Commissioners concerns were on the type of park; whether it going to be a playground for children or more of a passive type of park. Safety issues are a concern with children playing that close to Cowan Blvd. Dr. Antozzi reported that the playground equipment would be located in the center of the property. Commissioner Tyler requested a diagram on the proposed park. Dr. Antozzi will e-mail a diagram of the proposed park.

C. Awards Selection – The Recreation Commission's 24th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet is scheduled for November 18, 2010. The Recreation Commission voted for the following nominees:

Contributor of the Year:
The Sunshine Lady Foundation

Sports Volunteer of the Year:
Timothy Bahre & Chris Lipinski

New Volunteer Coach of the Year:
Justin Childress & Wilson Greenlaw

**Alvin Staples Leisure Volunteer of the Year Award:
Barbara Benton**

**Hall of Fame Award:
Michael Ward**

**Special Support Awards:
W.C. Spratt, Inc., Star Radio Group & Cox
Communications**

**Meretorious Service Awards: Mavis Allen, Timothy
Bahre, Damien Cobey, Darrell Hayden, Robert Landeck,
Chris Lipinski, Gerry Madigan, Ed Petke with Cub Scout
Pack #213, Donnie Seal, R.C. Stephens, Chris Stoots,
Keith Workman, Kellogg's, Pohanka Automotive Group**

**Distinguished Meritorious Service Award:
Jeff Davis, Dickie Musselman with Weekend Bassers, Lasting
Impressions, Tree Fredericksburg, Virginia Paving Company,
W.C. Spratt, Inc.**

**Golden Partnership Award:
None**

**Diamond Partnership Award:
Sunshine Lady Foundation**

**Excellence in Service Award:
Margaret A. Hamm**

**Eagle Scout Award:
None**

**Recreation Commission Award:
Tree Fredericksburg & Lasting Impressions**

**Parks and Recreation Appreciation Award:
Fredericksburg Fire Department -**

**Past Recreation Commissioners:
Robert C. Carter & George C. Solley**

- D. Clock** – The Rappahannock Area Rotary Club is celebrating their 50th Anniversary and they have purchased a European style clock. Dr. Antozzi stated that they approached him in reference to placing the clock at Hurkamp Park. The \$18,500 clock weighs 800 pounds and is approximately 18 feet tall. Dr. Antozzi asked Parks and Recreation staff if they were to place a clock at Hurkamp Park where would they

place it. Staff determined that the best location would be to the left of the steps in the center of the park in the mulch area. The Commissioners discussed in length and agreed that the clock would not be a good fit for Hurkamp Park. Several recommendations were made on where to place the clock.

E. Dog Park - Dr. Antozzi referenced an article in The Free-Lance Star in regards to the dog park closing. The five-year Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Dog Group ends May 2011. The Memorandum of Understanding is a partnership between the City and the Dog Group. Mike Ward had met with the Dog Group and the impression he received was that they were not interested in honoring the Memorandum of Understanding as currently written. Mike Ward related to them that the Dog Park was built and designed based on the involvement of the Dog Group. The current President of the Dog Group stated that the Dog Group does not intend to honor the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding. Mike Ward stated that this might result in the dog park closing. An e-mail from a Fredericksburg resident was then circulated stating that the City was going to close the dog park. Parks and Recreation staff, Barbara Fant and William Glover, Attorney at Law, attended a meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding. It was agreed that William Glover would review and make recommendations for the language of the Memorandum of Understanding. The City Attorney will then review it. The language in the Memorandum of Understanding is a concern for the Dog Group. Dr. Antozzi stated that the Dog Park has been working quite well to date and there have been very few problems in the past five years.

Commission Concerns and Topics:

No comments were made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission

	<u>12/15/10</u>
Dr. Robert Antozzi, Director	Date

November 18, 2010 – Awards Banquet
Next Meeting December 9, 2010 at Maury Commons, Suite 111.